

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111  
U.S. Application No. 10/784,716

Attorney Docket No. Q79822

**AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS**

Please find replacement sheets for Figures 11-13, labeling them as --Prior Art--.

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-18 are all the claims pending in the application. Applicants have added new claim 19.

Applicants thank the Examiner for acknowledging Applicants' claim for foreign priority and receipt of the certified priority document, and for considering the references submitted in the Information Disclosure Statement filed with the application on February 24, 2004, and providing an initialed PTO Form 1449.

The Examiner has indicated acceptance of the drawings, however, there is an objection to the drawings in the Office Action itself. The Examiner states that Figures 11-13 should be labeled as "Prior Art." Applicants have labeled these Figures as "Prior Art" and are herewith submitting replacements sheets for Figures 11-13.

**Objection to the Specification:**

The Examiner has objected to the specification, stating that the term "pin" on page 32, line 2 should be --hole--. Applicants thank the Examiner for his suggestion, and have amended the specification in a like manner. Also, Applicants have amended the specification to clarify that the restricting grooves 90 themselves do not rotate in the embodiment described. Applicants note that these errors in the specification are considered administrative in nature.

**35 U.S.C. § 102(b) Rejections:**

Claims 1, 10, 15, and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Nayak (U.S. Patent No. 6,234,416). Applicants thank the Examiner for finding that many of the

claims include patentable subject matter, indicating that claims 2-9, 11-14, 16, and 17 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the 35 U.S.C. § 112 rejections and to include the limitations of their base and intervening claims, as appropriate. However, Applicants respectfully traverse the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejection.

The present invention relates to a recording tape cartridge, and more particularly to the structural configuration of the cartridge including a releasing member (clutch 84), guide members (e.g., rotation restricting ribs 88 and seat ribs 92) provided on the releasing member 84, and a guide portion provided on the reel (the boss portion 52 of the clutch) which accepts and engages with the guide members (rotation restricting grooves 90 and stopper grooves 94 of reel 28; see Figures 6, 9A, and 9B).

This aspect of the invention is recited in claim 1 as:

“a releasing member having a main body portion positioned within the reel hub, and an operation portion provided at the main body portion and exposed, from a position further toward a radial direction inner side than the reel gear at the bottom portion of the reel hub, to an exterior, the releasing member moving the braking member to the rotation permitted position by the operation portion being pushed by a releasing portion of the drive device; a guide portion provided, at the bottom portion of the reel hub, further toward the radial direction inner side than the reel gear; and

a guide member, provided at the releasing member, for guiding the releasing member in a moving direction along an axial direction of the reel and for impeding rotation of the releasing member with respect to the reel by engaging with the guide portion.”

The Examiner states that these features are disclosed by Nayak, referring Applicants to the engaging portion 211 or 1107, the reel gear 207 or 1105, the braking member 212 or 1109, the releasing member 217 (at the tip) or 1114, the guide portion/boss portion around hole 209 or 1104, and the guide member 217 or 1113. The Examiner further states that the guide member impedes rotation of the releasing member by frictional contact with the guide portion.

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. First, there is no explicit disclosure in Nayak that aperture 209, as the Examiner argues, includes a boss area or cylindrical tube area. Further, none of the Figures disclose that unlocking protrusion 217/1114 engages with a boss or the aperture/hole 209/1104. As shown in Figure 10C, and Figure 11A, the only interaction that may cause friction is the engagement of the motor center post 52/114 as it enters aperture/hole 209/1104. Indeed, the specification states that center post 52 has a spherical end to facilitate engagement with the aperture 209/1104 (see col. 5, lines 41-43). From Figures 2, 7, 10c, and 11a, as well as the lack of disclosure in the specification, it is clear that unlocking protrusion 217/1114 does not engage with any portion of aperture/hole 209/1104, as there is a specific clearance shown between the unlocking protrusion 217/1114 and aperture/hole 209/1104.

Finally, the specification discusses that impeding rotation of the lock bracket 212 (which includes unlocking protrusion 217) is performed by spokes 218 which protrude downward from the top surface 219 of the cartridge shell and extend between the arms of the lock bracket 214 (see col. 2, lines 14-25). Thus, this teaching also leads away from the need for the Nayak tape cartridge to use a guide member to impede rotation of the releasing member. As such, Applicants respectfully submit that there is no disclosure of a guide member impeding rotation of the releasing member with respect to the reel by engaging with the guide portion in Nayak. This feature is also included in independent claims 15 and 18, and as such, these claims are allowable for the same reasons. Claim 10 is allowable at least based on its dependence on claim 1.

Provisional Double Patenting Rejection:

Applicants note that claims 1-18 stand provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-14 of co-pending application 10/781,895.

35 U.S.C. § 112 Rejections:

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite. Applicants have made minor amendments to the claims believed to address this rejection.

Claim 19:

Claim 19 has been added to recite the operation-push surface which corresponds to the press-operation surface 86C in the specification. In particular, the specification describes the flat bottom end surface of the clutch main body 86, which is around a thinning hole 86B which opens downward, is a press operation surface 86C (see this description on page 45 of the present specification).

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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